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American Clown

Athletic Dance

American Clown

Athletic Dance for Men or Boys

UNIV. OF CALIFORNIA

BY

GEORGE MARTIN CASKEY

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GV1797
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V.1

A Dance

Containing many excentric and pantomimic features and easily mastered by those having little or no dancing ability.

Arranged and presented to teachers at the Summer Session of Teachers College, Columbia University, New York City, July and August, 1915.

Those interested in the presentation of an indoor circus will find this dance a most attractive number.

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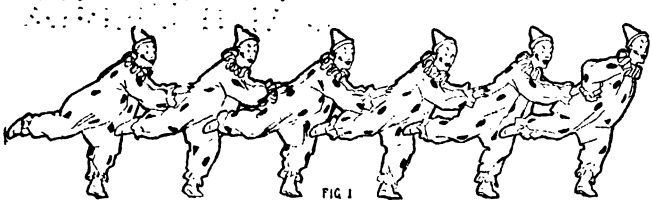
FIG. 1

AMERICAN CLOWN.

Introduction. (4 measures.) Clowns enter from either L or R side of "up stage." All are in one line, bending forward (Fig. 1). Step is a springy step, or trot. Ct. 1-4, Begin L foot, run forward L-R-L and extend R leg diagonally to rear (kick) on Ct. 4. Head snaps to R at same time (Ct. 5-8). Repeat, moving forward, beginning R foot (Ct. 9-16). Repeat again.

Note. Clowns move to center of stage, then down center to front of stage. If not in place at end of 8th measure, repeat melody, making 32 counts or 16 measures.

To Position on Floor. Open order. Play vamp twice (4 meas.). A. Clowns are numbered, 1-2-3, etc. First clown stands or turns in place, hands in pockets (Fig. 3). Clown No. 2 spins to R side. (A walking turn, 4 revolutions, 8 steps) arms out to side (Fig. 2).

Clown No. 3 spins to L side of stage (Fig. 2). Class is now on the floor in column of threes. B. Repeat vamp again twice (4 meas.). All stand in place and wave or bow to audience (Fig. 4-5-6).

FIG. 6

FIG. 7

FIG. 8

FIG.2

FIG.3

FIG.4

FIG.5

Step One. Count 1-2, Step to R side and hop, arms out to side (Fig. 7). Ct. 3-4, Step on L foot and hop (Fig. 8). Ct. 5-8, Step or slide on R foot and hop to R side three times (Fig 9). A careless falling movement (4 meas.). Ct. 9-16, Repeat all to L side. Ct. 16-32, Repeat all to R and L. This step is executed four times (16 meas.).

Step Two. Count 1-2, Hop on L foot and extend R heel forward, R arm upward (Fig. 10). Ct. 3-4, Change position of feet, putting L heel forward L arm up. Ct. 5-8, Execute this step in fast time (4 kicking steps). Arms move rapidly up and down, alternating. Ct. 9-10, Leap forward on two feet.

Bending trunk backward (Fig. 11). Ct. 11-12, Jump backward and bend trunk forward (Fig. 12). Ct. 13-16, Stand erect and execute four jumps about in place R (Fig. 2). Ct. 16-32, Repeat all (16 meas.).

FIG.9

FIG.10

FIG.11

FIG.12

FIG.13

FIG.14

FIG.15

FIG.16

Step Three. Ct. 1-2, Swing R foot around in front of L foot, displacing L foot (a cut) and hop on R (Fig. 13). Ct. 3-4, Swing L foot around in front of R and displace R (cut) and hop on L. Ct. 5-8, Repeat Ct. 1-4. This step is a Grande Rondes Jambe, Coupé with Souté.

Ct. 9-16, Leap to a stride position, toe in and bend trunk forward to floor. Remove hat (Fig. 14). Raise trunk slowly, twisting feet inward and back to position (a Tortillé), (Fig. 15) and wave at audience. Ct. 16-32, Place hat on head and repeat (16 meas.).

Interlude. Ct. 1-2, Leap to R side in bent-knee position and hold (Fig. 16). Ct. 3-4, Repeat again to R side. Ct. 5-8, Four jumps about in place R in bent-knee position. Ct. 9-16, Repeat L back to place, and turn L (8 meas.).

Pantomine. (Drum Part.) Second row of clowns stand in place, feet apart in expectation of trouble (Fig. 17). Ct. 1-2, first row of clowns, begin R foot, and like a soldier, mark time in place (Fig. 18). Ct. 3-4, Turn ½ turn to R. Ct. 5-8, March forward toward second row. Lunge forward on L foot and knock hat off head of second row of clowns (Fig. 19). Ct. 9-16,

FIG.21

FIG.22

FIG.23

FIG.24

FIG.17

FIG.18

FIG.19

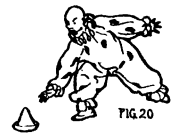
FIG.20

First row of clowns return R to place with step hop (Fig. 21), or four two-step movements, waving hat; second row pick up hat (Fig. 20) and return (run) to place and shake fist at first row (Fig. 22) (8 meas.).

Step Four. Ct. 1-2, Cross R foot over L, step on R and extend L foot out to L side, L hand at ear (Fig. 23). Ct. 3-4, Cross L foot in front of R and extend R to side. Opposite position of Fig. 23. Ct. 5-8, Repeat movement to L and R. This step is in place.

Ct. 9-10, Extend R and L foot forward, bend back (Fig. 24). Ct. 11-12, Extend R and L foot backward, bend trunk forward (Fig. 25). Ct. 13-16, Hop about to R on R foot (Fig. 27), four hops. Ct. 17-32, Repeat all to opposite side (16 meas.).

Note. At the conclusion of step four the introduction is played again (8 meas. only). All stand in place and wave at friends in audience (Fig. 4-6) or kneel, making love (Fig. 26). There is opportunity here for funny facial expression, jesture, etc.

FIG.25

FIG.26

FIG.6

FIG.27

FIG.5

FIG.27

FIG.28

Play Vamp Twice (4 meas.). Ct. 1-4, Clowns all step to R side and courtesy (Fig. 5). Then step to L side and courtesy again (Ct. 5-8).

Step Five. First Melody. Ct. 1-4, Slide-hop to R on R foot, making one-half turn to R (Fig. 27). Step and hop on L foot, completing the turn to R (Fig. 28). Ct. 5-6, Step-hop again on R foot (Fig. 27), facing front.

Ct. 7 and 8, Jump to two feet (Fig. 2), then leap in air and open feet sideways (Fig. 29), and return to position (Fig. 2). Ct. 9-16, Repeat all to L side, turn L, etc. Ct. 16-32, Repeat again to R and L side (16 meas.).

Step Six. Second Melody. Ct. 1-4, All step on R foot and hop, then L foot.

Note. Arms are bent loosely at chest, like fore paw of bear. First row of clowns turn and face second row on Ct. 1-4. Second row step-hop twice in place. Ct. 5-8, Both rows teddy bear toward each other four steps (a trot), R-L-R-L (Fig. 30).

FIG.31

FIG.32

FIG.33

FIG.29

FIG.2

FIG.30

Ct. 9-10, No. 2 bends forward with hat off. No. 1 places hand on head or back (Fig. 31). Ct. 11-12, Leap frog over (Fig. 33). Ct. 13-16, All roll forward on floor (Fig. 32). Ct. 16-32, Repeat Ct. 1-4, the step-hop.

Only all must turn about R to face each other. Then teddy bear toward each other. Leap frog and roll. At the end of roll the second and fourth row must turn about R to face audience. (16 meas.).

Step Seven. Third Melody. Ct. 1, Leap to R side, bend L leg back of R (a Jeté, Fig. 34). Ct. 2, Leap on L foot and bend R in front. Ct. 3-4, Repeat to R side, 4 Jetés in all. Very springy. Ct. 5-6, Hop on L foot and place R heel diagonal forward R. Move arms up and down. A chopping movement (Fig. 35).

Ct. 7-8, Leap from L to R foot and turn slightly to L, place L heel on floor, arms move up and down (Fig. 36). Ct. 9-16, Four leap steps to L side (Jeté) and chop to L (Fig. 36) and R (Fig. 35). Ct. 16-32, Reapt all to R and L side again (16 meas.).

FIG.34

FIG.35

FIG.36

Interlude. Ct. 1-2, Hop on L foot and step to R side on R drawing L foot slowly to R. Raise first R then L shoulder (Fig. 37). Ct. 3-8, Repeat to same side 4 times in all. Ct. 9-16, Repeat movement 4 times, back L to place.

Note. This movement is a hop-step and draw and known as the Over Sal Step (8 meas.).

Pantomime. (Drum Part.) Ct. 1-4, First row of clowns (or No. 1). Mark time, then turn to R in place (Fig. 18). Second row of clowns, remove hat and stand waiting (Fig. 38).

Ct. 5-8, Clowns No. 1 march forward like soldiers toward No. 2. (Repeat Drum Part.) Ct. 9-10, With hats off both bend forward and place heads together (Fig. 39). Ct. 11-12, Turn around with heads together (Fig. 40). Ct. 13-16, With backs together, bend knees and sink to floor. Place hat on toe (8 meas.)

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FIG.39

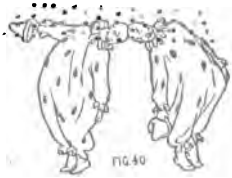
FIG.40

Step Eight. Fourth Melody. Ct. 1-2, Clown No. 1 turns head to R to see if he can see No. 2. No. 2 does the same (Fig. 41). Ct. 3-4, Both turn heads to L quickly and look again.

Ct. 5-8, Not finding each other, both scratch head (Fig. 42). Bend knees by drawing up feet and take hat in hand. Ct. 9-10, Both look around to R again. Ct. 11-12, Both look to L. Ct. 13-16, Slowly rise, back to back (Fig. 43).

Ct. 16-20, With heads together turn about (Fig. 40), facing, and stand with bent knees, glaring at each other (Fig. 44), place hat on head. Ct. 20-32, Embrace each other (Fig. 45), and step-hop off floor in any direction, or clowns can carry each other off.

Arm positions and costume is suggested by each illustration.

Music arranged especially for this dance can be secured from the author.

FIG.43

FIG.44

FIG.45

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